

Navy to remediate former dry cleaning site, accepting formal comments

From NAVAL FACILITIES
ENGINEERING COMMAND
MIDWEST

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Midwest, with input by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, has identified the preferred remedial alternative for Site 22, Bldg. 105—Old Dry Cleaning Facility at Naval Station Great Lakes.

As part of the Navy's environmental restoration program, NAVFAC Midwest has completed a remedial investigation and an early cleanup action at the former dry cleaner's location.

A proposed plan, summarizing the remedial investigation, the review of potential cleanup options and the preferred cleanup alternative is being issued for public review and comment. NAVFAC Midwest will accept formal comments from base personnel and the general public March 7 through April 5. The final cleanup alternative will be selected after reviewing the public's input.

The soil beneath the now-demolished Bldg. 105 was contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) related to dry cleaning operations at the building from 1939 to 1993.

The proposed final cleanup alternative for the site is to implement Land Use Controls (LUCs). This means that the site (soil and groundwater) at the former building location will have usage limitations placed upon them.

The former Bldg. 105 site is bounded on the south by Porter Ave., on the west by a vacant paved parking lot, on the north by Bronson Ave. and on the east

by Sampson St. The former 10,500-square-foot building was a slab-on-grade structure measuring approximately 150 feet by 70 feet. The site is now an active, paved parking lot with a high-density polyethylene membrane immediately below the asphalt.

The parking lot will remain the preferred use of the property.

A copy of the proposed plan is available by contacting Howard Hickey at NAVFAC Midwest at (847) 688-2600 ext. 243 or at howard.hickey@navy.mil. Comments and questions may be submitted to Hickey by e-mail or by writing to the following address:

Department of the Navy
Naval Station Great Lakes
NAVFAC MW
Attn: Howard Hickey
201 Decatur Ave
Building 1A, Code EV
Great Lakes IL 60088

The Navy and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency encourage the public to review and comment on the proposed plan during the public comment period. Comments may be written or verbal. Written comments should be submitted to the address listed above.

Comments must be postmarked no later than April 5. Copies of the proposed plan will be available for review beginning March 7. If requested, a public meeting will be held to discuss the findings and recommendations of the proposed plan. An extension of the public comment period may also be requested. The Navy will evaluate the need for an extension or meeting.



Photo by Bill Couch

A mini loader works to remove heavy snow and ice from sidewalks on Naval Station Great Lakes. In addition to clearing roads for vehicle traffic, the base public works department must ensure thousands of Sailors training on the base can walk between their barracks and class each day. More than a foot of snow fell during the Feb. 6-7 storm.

PWD Great Lakes meets snowfall head-on

By BILL COUCH

NAVFAC Engineering Command Midwest
Public Affairs

Facing this winter's record-breaking snowfall in the Midwest, members of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Midwest's Public Works Department (PWD) Great Lakes continue to meet the challenge to keep Naval Station Great Lakes open and operating.

PWD Great Lakes is responsible for snow removal from all roads and sidewalks on the base, including main-side, Recruit Training Command, and other areas such as the industrial area west of Forrestal Village base housing. In all, PWD plows cover more than 110 parking lots and approximately 30 miles of pavement, with assistance from self-help personnel, Recruits and Sailors for areas immediately outside their respective buildings.

"Unlike some bases where people mostly drive to work, Great Lakes also has thousands of students who have to walk to class every day," said

PWD Great Lakes base support vehicles and equipment (BSVE) manager Mike Chipman. "PWD Great Lakes strives to make that commute as safe as possible for pedestrians and drivers alike."

In the Chicago area, according to the National Weather Service, more than 50 inches of snow have fallen so far this winter, compared to approximately 40 inches that normally fall during an entire winter season.

Nearly a foot of snow fell in many areas during a recent snowstorm Feb. 6-7, causing major transportation disruptions throughout the Chicago area.

Typically, a crew of about 17 people are on call to handle snow removal. In the case of Feb. 6 and 7, more than 34 members of the BSVE shop worked around the clock clearing snow and ice from roads and sidewalks. Additionally, the wet snow quickly turned into ice when temperatures plummeted below zero overnight, so BSVE had to bring in five front-end loaders — usually used for excavation — to scrape ice from streets and

parking lots because snow plows were not strong enough for the task.

"From the 1st to the 6th of February, we received around 28 inches of snow," said Chipman. "Our teams performed very well to keep up with a snowfall of that magnitude."

In addition to the teamwork at Great Lakes, the snowfall this winter has also prompted teamwork across the Midwest region. NAVFAC Midwest BSVE Product Line Coordinator George Borucki arranged in early February for supplemental road salt from PWD Crane, Ind., to be provided to PWD Great Lakes. Both PWDs are part of NAVFAC Midwest, supporting their respective bases in the region. This arrangement within NAVFAC will help Naval Station Great Lakes deal with a situation many communities outside the base are struggling with.

"This is exactly the kind of coordination and forward thinking that keeps us ahead of the game," said NAVFAC Midwest commanding officer Capt. Bob Gibbs. "Bravo Zulu!"